

circle and behind the anus there is a small but distinct orifice of a deep red colour.

This description is taken from a single specimen, the only one I ever saw, and it is probable that the colour may vary in different individuals. It seemed fond of swimming in a reversed position; and evacuated some small pellets of a bright red colour while in confinement, but it was not ascertained whether these came from the vent or the adjoining excremental orifice.

[To be continued.]

VII.—*Information respecting Botanical Travellers.*

LETTERS have lately been received from Mr. Cuming, (so well known by his splendid South American collections of Natural History,) dated Manilla, Dec. 24, 1836; from Dr. Schomburgh, dated New Amsterdam, Berbice, April 8th, 1837, Demerara, August 8th, 1837; from Mr. Gardner, dated Organ Mountains, Brazil, April 5th, 1837.

Mr. Cuming had reached Manilla in July of last year, just as the rainy season had set in, when he was unable to make any excursions until the end of September. He then left Manilla for the Hacienda of Calaguan in the centre of Luyon, where he remained until the 15th of December, visiting and exploring the woods and mountains in the neighbourhood, and then returned to Manilla with his collections. These consist of about 1150 species found in the island of Luyon; and of these nearly one-tenth are ferns of the most varied and beautiful forms; two of them are tree-ferns; and one he describes as constituting a shrub, throwing out branches like the fir; and with the exception of a few, they were all found in fructification. He secured about 60 species of *Orchideæ*, of which the greater part were not in flower; many species of Mosses, and 125 *Fungi*. Many trees afforded specimens with splendid inflorescences, some blossoming twice in the year; but others flower principally in March, April and May, and could not be collected in a satisfactory state at a later season. Without having then visited the coast, he had collected no less than 250 kinds of Shells, and a proportionate number of Insects, Reptiles, Crustaceæ, &c.

His reception from the Government (which hitherto had been so jealous of foreigners visiting their country, that I know of no naturalist who had ever penetrated into the interior of the island except

Mr. Cuming) was flattering in the extreme; every facility had been afforded to his researches, and the hospitality of the resident Spaniards was even greater than what he experienced from the same nation in South America. Although Calaguan is deemed the most unhealthy spot in the island, and although Mr. Cuming explored the woods, mountains, marshes and river-banks, frequently exposed to torrents of rain during a whole day, he never suffered an hour from illness, nor experienced a moment's pain, except from the bites of venomous insects. Mr. Cuming's return to England with his collections may shortly be expected.

Mr. Gardner, whose intention of visiting the Organ Mountain is noticed at p. 346, vol. ii. of the Companion to the Botanical Magazine, writes from his residence of "Fazenda de St. Anna de Paquequer" in that range, at an elevation of 3100 feet above the level of the sea. He says in his letter,—

"I have to acknowledge the receipt of your long and highly welcome letter of the 25th of October, which I had not intended to answer at this time, not expecting an opportunity of despatching my reply. I have however just heard that a vessel is to sail direct for Liverpool in about three days; and a Swiss planter, a very kind friend of mine, whose estate lies about three leagues distant from this Fazenda, having arrived here to-night on his way to the city, and offering to convey anything I may wish to send thither, I sit down to write you a few hurried lines, to inform you that I am in the enjoyment of good health, and busily employed in an excellent botanical field. It will be impossible for me now to dilate on all I have seen and collected upon this mountain range. This information I trust to be able to give on my return to Rio, which will probably take place in about a month, when it is my intention to arrange and pack up all my collections,—a process for which both house-room and paper are wanting here.

"When sailing up the bay to this Fazenda, we passed many little rocky islands, on which I observed a number of *Cacti*; and on my return to the city I hope to take a boat, and spend a day or two in surveying them. Should any new species of the *Cactus* tribe, as I expect, reward my researches, they shall be sent to my generous patron the Duke of Bedford, to whom I regret that there has been no opportunity of forwarding a box of living Palms.

"There are very few Mosses on these mountains, and not many Lichens, but an abundant harvest of Ferns, many of which, I have no doubt, you will find to be new. Several of those I have examined

are undescribed by Sprengel. Among the most remarkable is a very fine *Osmunda*, and a curious bipinnate species, with a habit corresponding to that of *Lygodium*, but the fructification of a *Blechnum*. I have met with a few *Fungi*, but have not collected any. *Agaricus campestris* is very abundant just now on the pastures of this estate.

“ Among my recent discoveries are two most beautiful species of *Cattleya*, both of them, I believe, new. A single living plant of each was all I could secure; but I dried and preserved in spirits some of the blossoms.

“ Your obliging suggestions as to my future movements have met with my best attention; but I am yet undecided what plan to pursue. Since receiving your letter, my opportunities of obtaining information respecting the route to Goyaz have been very small; and all I have heard is, that the journey would occupy several months, and be attended with heavy expense. From our mutual friend, Dr. Loudon, I had a letter a few days since, containing a most pressing invitation to visit him in that province; and as Von Martius seems to consider the interior from thence as a good botanical field, I feel inclined to proceed thither when quitting Rio, as from the immediate vicinity of Pernambuco much might be obtained, which could not fail to prove acceptable to my subscribers, whether for living or dried plants. After spending four or five months there, it would be time to think of exploring the interior. But although I may remain in Brazil two or three years more, I shall not resign the idea of a trip across the Pampas and Andes to Chili. On all these points you shall hear further when I have the honour to write, along with my Organ Mountain collections.

“ Ever since Christmas day I have been residing at this Fazenda; and when my stay is completed, which will be in a month, I hope to send home 400 or 500 species. I now enclose in a box containing insects, two capsules of a species of *Talauma*. This is a grand and handsome tree of frequent occurrence in this vicinity, which bears abundance of large yellowish white, highly fragrant flowers. I arrived just in time to secure a few specimens, which I succeeded, after much trouble, in drying. This spot is at an elevation of 3100 feet above the level of the sea; but the highest peak of the Organ Mountains attains twice that altitude. It has never yet been ascended; but I hope this will not continue to be the case, as the English clergyman at Rio projects an excursion to the summit next week, and kindly permits me to accompany him. We expect to be absent at least three days and two nights; and since many miles of the route lie through a dense virgin forest, where it will be neces-

sary to cut our way, we shall take four negroes with us, who will also carry provisions, &c. I expect to find many curious things; and only regret that our mode of travelling must preclude the possibility of making large collections. My friends would, I dare say, hardly recognize me in the garb that I assume during these excursions, which consists of only a shirt, thin trowsers, linen shooting-jacket with wide pockets, and a straw hat as broad as the Culross girders used for baking the oat cakes of my native land. Neckcloth and vest are incumbrances here: instead of the former, a string suspends round my neck a large knife; while a cutlass for cutting down trees hangs by my side, and a huge botanical box is strapped to my back. I should also mention that deep Brazilian boots of untanned yellow leather incase my legs, and come up as high as the body. My excursions generally extend to a distance of ten or more miles, as I often ride on a mule; and when I tell you that the woods here are most beautifully adorned with several arborescent species of *Melastomaceæ*, principally of the genus *Lasiandra*, whose deep green foliage and purple blossoms give them the appearance of gigantic Rhododendrons, and which are mingled with large trees of the genus *Cassia*, covered with lovely yellow flowers, you will easily believe that I return home at night loaded with novelties.

“April 5th, 1837.

“GEORGE GARDNER.”

A more recent communication from Mr. Gardner has put us in possession of his journal, written during his residence in the Organ Mountains, which will be given in an early number of our Annals; and of a letter, dated partly at sea and partly on his arrival at Pernambuco, from which we make the following extracts.

“On board Her Majesty’s Packet Opossum, between Bahia and Pernambuco, October 6, 1837.

“By the last packet I wrote, stating that I had determined to visit Pernambuco before going south, having been advised not to think of proceeding to Buenos Ayres, in consequence of the present unsettled state of the country between that place and Chili. Several friends, well informed on the point, concurred in this opinion; and while it is with reluctance that I give up my first intention, I still think that twelve months will not be unprofitably spent in the north of Brazil. Pernambuco and the adjoining provinces have been less visited than the rest of this country; and M. Riedel, the botanist attached to M. Longsdorff’s expedition, with whom I have just been conversing, states, that while he has explored all the rest of Brazil, he did not visit Pernambuco, a district, with which though

he is personally unacquainted, he understands to be peculiarly rich in plants.

“I am carrying letters to several of the merchants in Pernambuco, one of whom happens to be a fellow-passenger with us from Bahia. This gentleman informs me that he possesses a country house not far from a large fresh-water lake, eight miles inland from the city, where he has kindly invited me to spend some time. Another of the passengers from Rio is a young Spaniard, who has a large *Estancia* or farm in the republic of Monte Video, situated about 160 leagues up the Uruguay river. He was educated in England, and is now on his way to visit his father who lives in London. From this individual, with whom I have formed some intimacy, I have received a most hospitable invitation to make use of his house for as long a time as I may remain in that quarter. It is situated only three days journey from the *Misiones*, where Bonpland resides; and abundance of the *Maté* or Tea plant of Paraguay, (*Ilex Paraguayensis*) is cultivated there. As this gentleman intends to return in less than twelve months, I shall not prolong my stay in the north beyond that period. By this arrangement I hope to reach Buenos Ayres about the beginning of what is the summer season there. I anticipate that this gentleman’s kindness will be of the utmost service to me, as he is acquainted, not only with all the Spaniards who possess large farms in that country, but with the greater part of the English also; and in case of his not having returned so soon as my arrival shall take place, he has given me letters to the manager of his estate, who, like himself, is an Anglo-Spaniard, and to some of his relations in Buenos Ayres. He informs me that, however dangerous travelling may be in the country between Buenos Ayres and Mendoza, Cordova and Tucuman, it is perfectly safe to do so in the Banda Oriental and Entre Rios.

“While at Bahia, I saw in one of the numbers of Silliman’s North American Journal a drawing and description of the new plant-press* which you propose to me. It is certainly constructed on a much superior plan to any of those now used, and for an individual who is stationary, excels all others; but I incline to think that, for the purpose of travelling, no mode of drying plants is so ready and commo-

* Of the usefulness of this newly-invented plant-press I can speak with confidence, after nearly twelve months’ experience in the use of it. It was presented to me by its inventor, Dr. Locke of Cincinnati, state of Ohio, a gentleman who has lately visited England, and who is distinguished for his extensive mechanical knowledge. A figure and description will be offered in a future number of our Journal.—W. J. H.

dious as that afforded by two thin boards the same size as the paper, with strong cross bars, a couple of leathern straps, and a big stone.

“ I trust that my second shipment of specimens will have arrived ere you receive this letter. I have yet a few Rio plants to send, most of them collected just before I left that city, and dried during the passage to Bahia, which occupied thirteen days. At the latter place we spent forty-eight hours, during which I made two short botanical excursions, and found several novelties; among them two species of *Eriocaulon*, a yellow-flowered shrubby *Cuphea*, (*C. flava*? Sprengel), *Pistea stratiotes* in flower and seed, *Angelonia hirtea* (of Chamisso), and some others which I have not yet had time to examine. Here also were several specimens of what seems to me *Coryanthes speciosa*, (Hooker), growing on the Mangrove, Cocoa-nut, and other large trees on the Victoria Hill. The country round Bahia is much lower than the neighbourhood of Rio; but its vegetation is ranker and far more luxuriant. The Mangoes, the Jacka (*Artocarpus integrifolia*), the Cocoa-nut and other Palms attain nearly twice the size they do about Rio; and the general Flora is also quite different, the common plants being altogether dissimilar in the two places. On my second botanizing trip I was accompanied by a young man from Glasgow, who has been eight years in a merchant's house here. Though he attended the lectures of the Professor of Botany in that city, he has forgotten all about that science: but his acquaintance rendered him a useful companion. These plants will be sent with the first collection from Pernambuco.

“ Before quitting Rio, I again went up to Tejuca, in order to procure, if possible, a few plants of *Oncidium Russellianum*; but though I staid three days and explored every probable spot, I had but little success. The few *Orchideæ* that I obtained are sent home, packed with all the skill and care of which I am master, by H.M. ship Blonde, which is expected to make a short passage. * * * * I left two boxes to be forwarded from Rio to Liverpool, containing reptiles and shells: in the former are two birds of the country; one of them the Jacutinga (*Penelope Jacutinga* of Spix), a small monkey and a squirrel. I have also collected several insects; among them another fine species of *Ceutrotus*, which is only found on the small branches of *Carolinea alba*: it is much larger than any of the others.

“ GEORGE GARDNER.”

Five days after the date of the above letter, i.e. in twenty-five days after quitting Rio, Mr. Gardner reached Pernambuco, where he was kindly welcomed by Dr. Loudon, a gentleman from Glasgow, now resident in that city, who is well known to ourselves, having joined

us in several botanizing parties to the Highlands of Perthshire, and who has paid much attention to the natural history of Brazil. Dr. Loudon assured Mr. Gardner that he thought there would be no difficulty in exploring the interior of the province, by making some cotton or sugar plantation his head-quarters: he offered him all the assistance in his power. As soon as Mr. Gardner should have collected two hundred species, he intended to despatch them home, so that we may soon look for specimens from him.

I may here remark that Mr. Gardner's extensive harvest of Organ Mountain plants have reached London, where such parcels as are addressed to the English and continental subscribers will be taken out by Mr. Hunneman: the rest will be forwarded without delay to Glasgow.

Since the above was written we have had the pleasure of receiving Mr. Gardner's collection of Organ Mountain plants, which will be distributed to the different subscribers with as little delay as possible. It is, as we anticipated, extremely rich in rare and novel species, remarkably well preserved. The number of the fullest sets extends from 301 to 735 phænogamous plants, together with a very fine collection of Ferns, and some good Mosses (which latter are not distributed). Little, comparatively, as is the distance between Rio and the Organ Mountains, yet, on account of the elevation, the vegetation of the latter is considerably different from that of the former place. Among the genera we find two of *Clematis*, a magnificent *Talauma*, two singular species of *Viola* (one *V. balsaminoides*, Gardn. MS.), a *Qualea*, a *Platanthera (ciliosa, Mart.)*, a *Chorisia (speciosa, St. Hil.)*, several *Clusiæ*, or perhaps *Schweiggeriæ*, St. Hil., *Norantea (Brasiliensis)*, a *Trigonía*, some fine *Sapindaceæ*, a *Stematosiphon*, Pohl; *Ilex Paraguensis* (!); several *Caseariæ*; numerous *Leguminosæ*, especially *Cassia*; a *Rubus*, *Cerasus*, *Fuchsia*, many exceedingly beautiful *Melastomaceæ* and *Myrtaceæ*; four Passion-flowers, one with an unusually large and handsome blossom; *Cereus truncatus*, and a new species (*C. Russellianus*, Gardn. MS.); *Hydrocotyle macrophylla*, Pohl; an *Eryngium*, four *Loranthææ*, several *Rubiaceæ*, two Valerians, some very handsome *Lobeliæ* and *Gesneriaceæ*, a *Gaultheria*, a *Vaccinium* and *Andromeda*, numerous and very fine *Compositæ*, particularly a *Baccharis* with large coriaceous cuneate leaves (perhaps *B. platypoda*, Dl.), and a *Mutisa*, *Cybianthus (cuneifolius, Mart.)*, some *Asclepiudeæ* and *Apocynææ*, a noble *Lisianthus*, *Talbachia* (among *Gentianeæ*), and a magnificent *Prepusa* (of the same family, very different from the *P. montana*, Mart. Nov. Gen. t. 190.), *P. connata*, Gardn. MS.; several *Solaneæ*; *Francisceæ*, two species, (one of them the very handsome and little-known *F. hydrangeæformis*, Pohl); two *Virgu-*

laria, a *Cartilleja*, *Peltodon*, *Hyptides*, four *Salvia*, a new *Cyrtandra*-ceous (?) plant, some singular *Utricularia*, one with a large cordate leaf, several curious species of *Begonia*, *Laurineæ*, a *Rhopala*, an *Aristolochia* (*cymbifera*, Mart.) ; a caulescent *Dorstenia*, two *Alstræmeria*, an *Eriocaulon*, several *Monocotyledoneæ*, and among them no less than fifty-eight species of remarkably well-preserved *Orchideæ*. Seldom have we received a more interesting collection from any country ; and we trust that Mr. Gardner's researches in Pernambuco will be rewarded with similar success, and he cannot fail to extend greatly our knowledge of the vegetable riches of Brazil.

We heartily wish that Dr. Schomburgh had been equally fortunate in his travels with Mr. Cuming and Mr. Gardner ; but he has had difficulties to contend with of no ordinary character, as will be seen in the following extracts from the letter above-mentioned, dated

“ New Amsterdam, Berbice, April 8, 1837.

“ I acknowledge with the greatest gratitude your kind letter of November the 12th, 1836, which I received a few days ago on my return to the colony. It evinces in the most flattering terms the interest you take in my proceedings, and stimulates, as it ought to do when I consider the source whence it proceeds, my ardent desire to make myself worthy of that interest. I have to contend with a thousand difficulties ; months elapsing, during which I have had no other habitation than an oil-cloth roof and some poles taken from the wood as uprights whereon to sling my hammock. The interior of British Guiana is uninhabited ; and while ascending the Berbice, we saw no appearance of human beings from the commencement of December till our return a few days ago. This circumstance alone may show the difficulty which attends the collecting and drying of plants in these regions. Let there be but a hovel which affords shelter and the means for preserving the specimens which have been collected with so much toil, and it is preferable to our late temporary habitations. The greatest traveller of his own time, or of any time, the celebrated Humboldt, found Indian settlements along the wildest part of his tours ; yet I have been for months past in districts where human foot never trod before, and starvation looked us pretty earnestly in the face. There is little doubt that part of the river Berbice has never been visited. No person can be more anxious than myself to send large and good collections of plants to Europe ; and during my late expedition everything has been done to fulfil this wish. An assistant was engaged by me, and no opportunity neglected for collecting ; still the number of species does

not exceed 220 to 230, exclusive of those which had been previously found on my visit to the Essequibo. It is quite a mistaken idea to conclude that a tropical heat is qualified to dry specimens better than the temperate zone. I can assure you that the contrary is the fact; and I am but too frequently compelled to have recourse to artificial heat, to prevent the plants from spoiling. The dense wood generates moisture at all times, even when the atmosphere appears most clear and serene, which, alas! has been a rare circumstance during my stay in British Guiana, much to the injury of my astronomical observations and botanical stores. During my visit to the Berbice it rained almost daily, and from Christmas to the commencement of April wet weather was incessant. I cannot sufficiently regret that many of the Essequibo plants were in such a bad condition, as I would have made any sacrifice rather than cause dissatisfaction to my subscribers; and to obviate this, I have offered to deduct the amount of such, or to replace them, where practicable, with more perfect samples, in order that botanists may become acquainted with all that I have found, and have no reason for complaint. Of No. 156, to which one of my subscribers objects as being without inflorescence, I may state that I could only find three plants in flower, which were, of course, destined for my first three subscribers; but as the juice of the species itself forms one of the ingredients in the famous *Wonrali* poison, I considered it of sufficient interest to warrant my sending it. No. 157 is of similar interest, being the tree which gives the *Amapaima* or *Caska preciosa*. Of No. 160 I have only transmitted a portion of the leaves; but Palms must not henceforth be expected from me; for if foliage, spathas and fruit are looked for, how could these be transported in corials? No. 168 has leaves only, no flower; but I considered that the tree which yields the Guiana vegetable milk, and of which the juice is also used by the natives as a varnish, was surely worth sending. I am thankful to the individual who has drawn my attention to these and other Nos.; in some instances I may have been in fault, and I can only repeat my offer that twelve specimens be deducted from my Berbice plants, and that any sample to which a well-founded objection can be made, should be rejected. If cabinet botanists, those who work at home, did but know what trouble it costs to collect plants, especially in the tropics, where Nature seems only to exist in the extremes of either a burning sun or pelting rain, they would be lenient in their judgments respecting those individuals, whose time, labour and expenses it is out of the question to think of repaying. The dense forests of this country are not very productive of those plants

which are most easily collected and preserved; I mean the herbaceous kinds. In these the Savannahs are far richer, while they also yield an equal number of shrubs, &c.

“An abridgement of my reports to the Royal Geographical Society, to which all papers connected with my journey justly belong, has appeared in the Journal of that body. I have, however, protested against any more being published for the present, as my views may change with respect to the country and its productions; and with regard to the character of the natives, it cannot be studied during a six months’ journey. My investigations of British Guiana will be concluded in 1838 or 1839; so that if the Almighty spares my health and strength, I hope to have many opportunities before me of increasing my stock of knowledge. I have gone to the expense of engaging a draughtsman, who, under my own inspection, executes drawings of such plants as I may consider interesting; the parts of fructification I delineate myself. Upwards of fifty have been done, many of them new; and I have preserved the inflorescence, and otherwise paid the greatest attention to the faithful representation of the whole plant.

“I am glad to hear that the *Cacti* reached Woburn in good order, though I much doubt that the first I sent was *C. semperangularis*, as the numeral classification, according to the sides which the stem presents, is highly deceptive. M. Otto of Berlin pronounces three of those which I sent from Tortola to be new. Not a *Melocactus* nor *Echinocactus* have I seen since I reached this country; the granitic regions sometimes present a *Cercus* or one of the *Rhipsalideæ*, but scarcely anything of the *Cactus* tribe. The islands are doubtless the region of the latter, and these I hope shortly to visit; for, as you are probably aware, Cuba, St. Domingo and Portorico have never been sufficiently investigated, though these are among the largest and most fertile of the West India islands. It is true that Pöppig has been in the first and Bertero in the two latter; but their labours were limited. It is therefore my plan, after returning early in the year 1839, to commence a tour through the islands, from Trinidad to the Bahamas. Have the goodness to tell me candidly whether the collections of plants from these countries would find purchasers. The mountain chain of Cuba, but chiefly that of San Domingo, is yet unexplored.

“Now for the discoveries made during my late expedition. At the head stands a new *Nymphaea*, the most wonderful production I have seen since my botanical researches commenced. I observed it first in the upper regions of the river Berbice; it is generally found where

the river is currentless, the membranaceous leaves being a lively green on the surface and bright crimson beneath, and from 5 to 6½ inches in diameter; the rim is turned up, and from 2 to 6 inches high: the salver-like form of the foliage is most regular, and the flower vies in beauty and singularity with the leaf. It is from a foot to fifteen inches in diameter, of a lovely pink in the middle, and pure white externally. Extensive stretches of the river are covered with this splendid Water Lily, affording so singular an appearance, that when I saw it for the first time, I could have wished my corials had wings, to enable me to ascertain what this beautiful inmate of the waters could be. The sensations of astonishment and delight with which I first surveyed this vegetable wonder are not to be described. I had a faithful drawing taken, and attempted likewise to preserve the leaves and flowers. The former failed utterly; but the blossoms, which are in strong brine, are tolerably well preserved. In a short time you shall hear more of it*.

“ My second discovery of interest is a genus of Fern, which I have not previously observed nor seen described in any of the botanical works I possess: it seems to connect the Ferns with the Mosses. Of that curious tribe, the *Balunophora*, I possess a species; but all my

* Probably it is this very Water-Lily to which M. d'Orbigny alludes in his *Voyage dans l'Amérique Méridionale*, when he says, “ Le 3 Mars je recommençai ma navigation, et descendant le Paraua, j'arrivai à l'emboûchure du petit ruisseau de San Jose, qui forme un immense marais avant de se réunir au fleuve. Là je trouvai une plante qui est peut-être l'un des plus belles d'Amérique. Cette plante, qui paraît appartenir à la famille des *Nymphæacées*, voisine du *Nénu Phar* de France, mais dans des dimensions gigantesques, est connue des Guaianais sous le nom de *Yrupé*, qu'elle doit à son séjour habituel et à l'analogie de la forme de ses feuilles avec celles de certains grands plats ou avec la couverture de certains paniers ronds fabriqués dans le pays. Qu'on se figure, sur une étendue de près d'un quart de lieue de long, et de plus de largeur, des feuilles arrondies, flottant à la superficie des eaux, toutes larges d'un à deux mètres, et dont le pourtour est muni de bords relevés perpendiculairement à deux pouces au-dessus de l'eau comme un plat. Ces feuilles, lisses en dessus, se divisent en dessous en une foule de compartimens réguliers, qui forment des côtes très-saillantes, remplies d'un air qui les soutient à la superficie de l'eau. Toute la partie inférieure de la feuille, ainsi que sa tige et ses fleurs, sont couvertes de longues épines. Au milieu de cette vaste plaine, brillent, dans la proportion des feuilles, des fleurs larges de plus d'un pied, de couleur tantôt violarée, tantôt rosée, tantôt blanches, toujours doubles, et exhalant un parfum délicieux. Ces fleurs produisent une espèce de fruit sphérique, qui, dans sa maturité, est gros la moitié de la tête, et plein de graines arrondies très farineuses; ce qui a fait donner à cette plante le nom de *mais del agua* (maïs d'eau) par les Espagnols du pays, qui, à ce qu'il paraît, recueillent ces graines et les font rôtir pour les manger. Je ne pouvais me laisser d'admirer ce colosse des végétaux, dont je recueillis des fleurs, des feuilles et des fruits, et je m'acheminai vers Corientes, où j'arrivai à quatre heures du soir.”

attempts to preserve were fruitless ; it is, however, among my drawings. No less interesting are three new species of *Podostemeæ*, of which my first subscribers will receive specimens. I am just occupied in arranging my plants, and must acknowledge with what distress I see the damage which the moisture has caused them, in spite of the chests being tinned inside. Nothing can effectually guard against this evil, and it is needless to complain. I had taken every precaution, and exposed the boxes to the sun whenever there was an opportunity ; though, sad to say ! a sunbeam did not occur above four or five times during the whole two months of my journey.

“ There is little doubt that my steps will next be turned to the mountains near the equator. In my ascent of the Essequibo I may meet with many of the plants I found before, and I shall be obliged by your pointing out to me such among them as you deem worthy to be drawn and described on the spot.

“ I have been very unfortunate with my entomological collections ; they fared worse even than the plants. The wreck of those collected in my last expedition were sent to the Entomological Society, while those which I got together during the Berbice and Conrantine trip were, with the exception of a very few, completely ruined by the corial being swamped ; when, unfortunately, in the agitation of the moment, the box was neglected to be secured. I hope to be less unlucky another time. I had almost forgotten to mention that I have three *Cacti* for Woburn : a number of seeds of Palms, and other plants shall accompany them. It will probably be necessary to send these things *via* Demerara, where I shall be in the commencement of May, as there is no communication from Berbice to Glasgow and Liverpool.

“ ROBERT H. SCHOMBURGH.”

Since the above extracts were penned for publication, much valuable information has been given at the late meeting of the British Association at Liverpool respecting the splendid Nymphæaceous plant discovered by Dr. Schomburgh in the river Berbice. A new genus has been formed of it, which has been dedicated to our young queen. It is the *Nymphæa Victoria* of its discoverer ; *Victoria Regina* of Mr. Gray ; *Victoria regia* of Dr. Lindley, who has done ample justice to Dr. Schomburgh's drawings by having it engraved on an imperial atlas size, at his own expense, and accompanied by a description for private distribution. It detracts nothing from Dr. Schomburgh's merits, if it be really the case, as stated in some of the foreign Journals, that the same plant was also found by Dr. Pöppig in the Amazon river, and named *Euryale Amazonica* ; a genus

from which Professor Lindley has found it necessary to distinguish it. Dr. Schomburgh's letter to the Botanical Society of London respecting this plant, together with an accurate and coloured figure, have also appeared in the 11th number of Sir William Jardine's Magazine of Zoology and Botany.

By the latest account that we have received from this courageous and scientific traveller, dated Demerara, August 28th, 1837, we learn that he was then about to undertake another expedition, and to proceed, without delay, to ascend the Essequibo to William the Fourth's Cataract, which he had reached in 1835-6; thence to continue the survey of that river to its sources, which are considered to be in the supposed mountain chain near the equator. If time and circumstances permit, he will then prosecute his researches to the eastward, return to the junction of Rupernuny in January 1838, and select his tropical winter-quarters (i.e. during the rainy season) at the Brazilian Fort San Joaquim. He then trusts to be enabled, as soon as the dry season sets in again (in August 1838), to start towards the mountain chain where the Orinoco is supposed to have its sources, and to return to Demerara in February or March 1839. In this difficult enterprise we fervently wish him success. Botany has already benefited considerably by his researches, notwithstanding his heavy losses and the difficulties he has had to encounter; and he has sent to his subscribers in England many valuable plants besides the *Victoria* above alluded to, and amongst them specimens and drawings of four species of that highly curious aquatic genus *Lacis* (*Podostemon*, Mirb.), of which further notice will be taken in a future number of our Annals.

Mr. Mathews, the indefatigable Peruvian traveller, has lately despatched another collection of dried plants from the neighbourhood of Moyobamba. The specimens are in beautiful preservation, rich in *Melastomaceæ* and *Compositæ*; but by no means so numerous in species as we could have wished. Mr. Mathews has neglected to number them, which will occasion some delay in the distribution to the Subscribers.

Mr. Tweedie, by whose researches in extra-tropical South America our gardens as well as our herbaria have been so much enriched, has recently performed a journey of some little difficulty to the southward of Buenos Ayres, beyond the Rio Saladillo, to a ridge of hills called Serras de Tandil, a country, as far as we know, never before visited by a botanist. The account with which he has favoured us of this journey will be given in our next number.